

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A stage-gearbox (9) for motor vehicles, comprising an unsynchronized basic gearbox ~~(15,17, 21, 18,22, 19,23, 20,28, 30)~~, at least one synchronized auxiliary gear ~~(12,13, 15,16, 17)~~ and at least one control unit (45) for controlling engagement and disengagement of the gears of the gearbox (9) and also neutral position, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the control unit (45) is arranged so as, when input signals indicating that neutral position is selected are received, to put the at least one synchronized auxiliary gear ~~(12, 13,15, 16,17)~~ in neutral position.

2. (Currently Amended) The stage-gearbox as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the control unit (45) is arranged so as in the basic gearbox ~~(15,17, 21,18, 22,19, 23, 20,28, 30)~~ to keep ~~the~~ a previous selected gear engaged while the neutral position is occupied.

3. (Currently Amended) The stage-gearbox as claimed in claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the auxiliary gear ~~consists of~~ comprises a split gear ~~(12,13, 15, 16,17) or a range gear (32)~~.

4. (New) The stage-gearbox as claimed in claim 2, wherein the auxiliary gear comprises a range gear.

5. (New) The stage-gearbox as claimed in claim 1, wherein the auxiliary gear comprises a split gear.

6. (New) The stage-gearbox as claimed in claim 1, wherein the auxiliary gear comprises a range gear.